



# The E-Gobrecht

## Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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April 2016 (Whole #135)



**Whitman Baltimore Spring Expo LSCC Group Photograph**

## LSCC Auction Items Wanted

As in most recent years, the LSCC officers conducted an annual auction to benefit the club's Treasury. With quality auction items and great participation from the membership, we have been able to reap a windfall, keep membership dues low (at \$25!), and complete some club projects (such as the LSCC display banners). In 2016, we are again planning an auction at the annual meeting at the ANA's World's Fair of Money.

Please consider donating or consigning a quality numismatic item for this year's benefit auction. In the past, items have included rare auction catalogues, Gobrecht medals, deluxe bound Liberty Seated books, and counterstamped Liberty Seated coins but we are delighted to accept almost any quality item.

Contact LSCC Vice President Len Augsburger at [leonard\\_augsburger@hotmail.com](mailto:leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com) for additional information or to submit an item for the auction. Thank You!

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## Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

The Spring ANA auction was held by **Heritage** in Dallas, Texas on March 3-4 and 6.

This was the only major auction completed during March 2016. The Stack's Bowers Baltimore auction begins on March 31 and will be covered in the April Auction News.

The ANA auction had a sparse selection of Liberty Seated coins but there was a sprinkling of interesting dates and varieties. A colorful 1838-O half dime in PCGS MS63 sold for \$9,987. It had previously sold as a PCGS MS62 CAC in the Gardner IV sale for \$7,050. An 1841-O half dime in PCGS MS63 gold CAC sold for the very strong price of \$4,230, which was higher than recent auction prices for MS64s.

A proof 1848 half dime and dime were in the sale. Both were from the Gardner collection. The half dime was graded PCGS PR64 and sold for \$11,817. At present, this half dime is the only 1848 proof graded by PCGS. The dime was graded PCGS PR65 and sold for \$15,275.

An 1853-O dime in PCGS AU58 CAC sold for \$2,115, which may indicate the date's demand and rarity in higher grades.

An 1853 No Arrows quarter graded ANACS VG8 with a repunched 3 in the date brought \$2,232. Two 1858-S quarters graded by PCGS were in the auction. The XF45 sold for \$2,820 while the MS62 sold for \$10,575.

A beautifully toned and well-struck small letter reverse 1840 half dollar graded PCGS MS66 CAC (reverse of 1839) sold for \$23,500. An 1842-O small letter reverse half dollar graded NGC MS61 sold for \$11,750. This 1842-O had been upgraded from a PGGs AU58 that had sold for \$12,925 in 2015. Two 1861-O half dollars struck by the Confederacy were in the auction. A W-13/WB-103 (bisected date) in PCGS MS63 sold for \$2,582. A W-15/WB-104 graded PCGS MS64 CAC sold for \$6,193. An 1878-S, arguably the rarest date Liberty Seated half dollar with the exception of the 1853-O no arrows, was graded PCGS AG3 and sold for \$19,975.

An 1856 dollar in NGC XF45 sold for \$2,937. An 1870-CC graded VF30 by PCGS sold for \$2,585. Four 1872-CC dollars were in this sale, three of which were impaired. However, a high grade specimen in PCGS MS62 sold for \$28,200. Two better date uncirculated Carson City Trade Dollars, both graded MS61 by PCGS, were in this auction: the 1873-CC sold for \$7,050 while the 1878-CC sold for \$18,800.

### LSCC Calendar

April 22-23, 2016. LSCC Table, **Marlborough, MA**. Bay State Coin Show, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough, MA.

April 27-30, 2016, LSCC Meeting and Educational Program, **Schaumburg, IL**. Central States Numismatic Society's 77th Annual Convention, Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center. See show schedule for Club meeting time and location. Steve Petty hosts.

June 1, 2016. Deadline for articles and advertisements for *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #126.



## Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

### 1839 F101c Pie Shattered Obverse Dime appears at Manchester LSCC/BCCS meeting

The seventh known Pie Shattered obverse, which was recently discovered by Shea Mowat, was shown to enthusiastic members at the Manchester, NH club meeting. Study of the specimen led to speculation of it being a slightly later die state than the Fortin piece. The Mowat specimen has a small step or plate in the field by the crack near Liberty's leg. It is speculated that it could be caused by a slight sinking of that section in the die.

John Frost took advantage of the opportunity to photograph the coin. John's photos are included in this issue of the *E-Gobrecht*.

The meeting in Manchester was lightly attended. Attendees, however, were keen to learn about the new variety find John reported in the Barber series. They were also eager about the in-depth consumer information contained in the Overrated/Underrated Liberty Seated Coinage seminar presented there.

The club tables at Manchester and Willimantic were busy as both shows were well attended. Mike Simpson of the Worcester MA coin club helped out at both shows. Joe Casazza helped man the table at Manchester.

The Whitman Expo in Baltimore just ended and the club dinner on Thursday night was a huge success with 17 members attending. The club meeting on Friday morning was well attended with about 30 attendees and a tremendous presentation on Trade Dollars by John Coyle. He later displayed his Trade Dollar collection at the club table.

The Bay State Coin Show is April 22-23 in Marlboro MA. John Frost will host the club table.

Central States is April 27-30. The club meeting is April 29 at 9AM. Steve Petty will host the meeting and there will be a presentation titled "Subtle Varieties/Die States for the 1839 Philadelphia Seated Dime Strikes."







LSCC table at Manchester NH



LSCC table at Baltimore

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## The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

### Unauthorized Arrows Removal in 1875

From the bottomless research files of Roger W. Burdette, we have an interesting item to share this month regarding the With Arrows coinage of 1873-1874. Burdette located a letter in the National Archives, dated January 5, 1875, from Mint Director H. R. Linderman to James Pollock, Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint. Linderman mildly chastised Pollock for removing the arrows from the 1875 dies and states that Pollock technically should have received permission to do so. Pollock was in an interesting situation – he had previously served as Mint Director, but accepted the lesser office of Superinten-

dent of the Philadelphia Mint in 1873. Perhaps he felt the removal of the arrows too trivial to report or that it would just be better to shoot first and apologize later. In any case, the next time you look at an 1875 Liberty Seated dime, quarter, or half dollar, you can imagine that a few 1875 dies might have included arrows if Pollock had taken the extra time to secure official permission from the Mint Director.

The full text of the letter is as follows:

January 5th, 1875  
Hon. James Pollock  
Supt. Mint of the U.S.  
Philadelphia

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 2nd inst. explaining the reasons for omitting the arrow-head device from the dies for the subsidiary silver coinage of 1875, I have to state that while it is in itself a matter of comparatively small importance, and the reasons given for dispensing with the device appear to be quite sufficient, it should have been proper to have first obtained the approval of the Director – no authority to alter or omit a device being vested by law or regulations in the Superintendent or Engraver. The omission to confer with and obtain the approval of this office upon the subject was doubtless due to inadvertence and the force of habit acquired under the old law, and calls for no further remark than that it must not stand as a precedent to be followed in future.

Very respectfully  
H. R. Linderman  
Director

[National Archives & Records Administration, Record Group 104, entry 235, volume 4.]





## Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

# 1878-S Quarter Dollar

A rare coin is an expensive coin; and the more rare the coin, the more expensive the coin. These statements make sense, and often they form the basis of some underlying assumptions about coin pricing. It is, therefore, most interesting just how often they are not true. A recent bit of research for a *Gobrecht Journal* article brought with it a reminder of how much perceptions of rarity, and resulting pricing, change over time for coins whose actual rarity has not changed. Obviously, pricing is in reality a complicated topic that depends on grade level, appearance, and popularity as well as rarity and possibly other unknown factors. Understanding that we are engaging in intentional oversimplification in order to make a point (or at least attempt to make a point), the following will consider actual rarity and price in isolation from these other factors.

It appears that prior to 1970 and, for many

people for a long while after that time, price was in large measure tied to mintage numbers. Those who dealt in coins, watched auctions, and attended major shows were obviously aware of the pitfalls of using mintage numbers to determine price, but it still seems that a lot of the pricing decision was based on mintages. The effect was just the opposite of a self-fulfilling prophecy (a self-defeating prophecy?). A coin that was underpriced was often considered very rare because it was not offered for sale with any regularity and a coin that was overpriced was thought more common that it really was because the higher prices brought pieces to market. Whether a coin started off as under or over priced may have depended upon the mintage in relation to actual surviving population. The relationship between price, availability and actual rarity was thus a moving target.

My article in the most recent *Gobrecht Journal*

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Figure 1: 1878-S 25¢ Obverse.



Figure 2: 1878-S 25¢ Reverse.



(Continued from page 6)

discusses the 1891-O quarter in detail as an example of a historically underrated (underpriced) issue. Conversely, the 1878-S quarter has been at least as historically overrated (overpriced). Prior to 1970, the 1878-S quarter was considered the third rarest seated quarter (1) and was priced higher than the 1870-CC in the 1965 *Redbook* (2). The result of this pricing was exactly the “self-defeating prophecy” mentioned above. The 1878-S became readily available. It is no surprise that it was LSCC members at the time who were first to notice and most aware of the discrepancy. As early as Issue 3 of the *Gobrecht Journal* in August 1975 Doug Winter noted that the 1878-S was overrated (3). John McCloskey, writing in *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 4 in December 1975 noted, “At almost any show one can find several examples of the 1855-O, 1878-S and 1891-O quarters.” (4) Likewise, Mel Hatfield wrote in *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 6 July 1976 that, “Probably, the most overrated date/mint Seated Liberty quarter, in all but the top grades, is the 1878-S which is available in quantities at all coin shows and from advertisements in most numismatic publications. For a long time this coin was thought to be one of the “keys” to the series. Phooey!! There are plenty of them around. A person could put together a roll in a month’s time from dealer’s stock at the large coins shows...” (5)

Prices took years to fall to the point that 1878-S quarters remained in collections rather than on the market. By the 1990s, they had stopped appearing frequently on dealers’ price lists. This was no doubt

helped in part by the 1986 LSCC quarter survey in which the 1878-S ranked 10th among S-mint quarters and around 20th in the series overall (6). Subsequent surveys have ranked the 1878-S number 3 or number 4 among the S-mints behind the 1871-S, 1872-S, 1864-S, and 1860-S (7). Clearly, despite the decline in popularity and price, it is a very scarce coin. No longer overrated and overpriced, perhaps it is time to pick up an example for the collection?

Image Courtesy of Heritage.

- (1) Briggs, Larry. The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters. Lima OH 1991.
- (2) Cregan, William. “The 1878-S Quarter.” *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 73, November 1998.
- (3) Winter, Douglas. “The Seated Liberty Quarter Dollar: A Study.” *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 3, August 1975.
- (4) McCloskey, John. “Were You Aware?” *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 4, December 1975.
- (5) Hatfield, Mel. “A Rarity Scale on Liberty Seated Quarters.” *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 6, July 1976.
- (6) Ash, Roy. “Liberty Seated Quarter Dollar Survey, 1986.” *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 38, March 1987.
- (7) Low, Darrell. “Liberty Seated Quarter Survey Results.” *Gobrecht Journal* Issue 100, November 2007.





## The Strike Zone

by Rich Hundertmark, LSCC #2347

### The 1839 Shattered "Y" Obverse Dime and Mr. Kamal M. Ahwash

Modified fly fishing proverb of the month:

Lo the Liberty Seated variety collector. Mighty are his coin show preparations. He riseth early in the morning and upsetteth the whole household. He goeth forth with great hope in his heart - and when the day is far spent he returneth, smelling of strong drink, and the truth is not in him. - Anonymous

[Here are] A few related ramblings from this month's coin activities:

At a recent local show I was approached by an old school dealer that knew of my interest in Liberty Seated coins. He asked if I was aware that a rare dime variety with a shattered obverse had just been found. I matter-of-factly replied: "you must mean the 1839 Pie Shattered Obverse?" He seemed quite amazed that I already knew of the coin, the point being that we live in a very small world with the internet making it possible to have virtually real time information on important new marketplace discoveries.

Coincidentally, at the same show, I was able to add to my "old school" numismatic library the 1981 second printing of Kamal M. Ahwash's "Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Dimes 1837-1891." With a quick perusal of the book, I was able to locate the aforementioned "holy grail" 1839 F-105C variety, listed on page 29 as a R7 rarity that showed a good black and white photograph of the obverse along with Mr. Ahwash's efficient remark as follows:

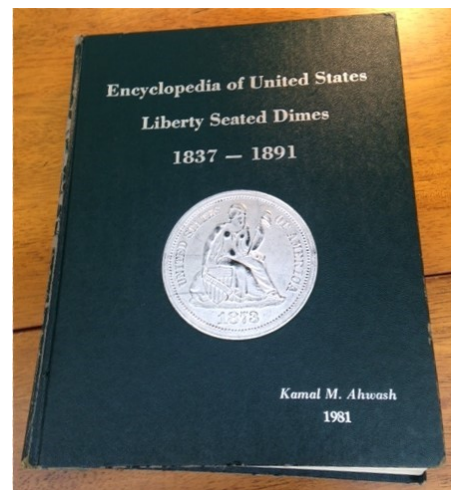
"Crack starts at rim above left part of star 7, continues thru star to Liberty's shoulder, body, shield, base, left part of "8" between "1 and 8" in date, into rim just left of 6 o'clock. Another starts from rim at 3 o'clock, thru star 13, field, right of knee and left thigh of Liberty into the other die crack, forming a huge "Y" across the obverse. Stars 3,4,8,10 and 13 are recut. "1,3 and 9" in date are recut."

Mr. Ahwash's notoriety, accomplishments, and contributions to the LSCC and numismatic research are well documented and a passage from the book's forward sums up the author's mission:

"I have tried to keep the text simple enough for the beginner and yet complex enough for the advanced collector to be able to pin-point a specific variety, not by words alone, but by specific, actual measurements."

Any new additions to my numismatic library are cherished, and the merging of legacy reference books combined with new reference material makes for great study and learning. I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Ahwash, but I hope he is smiling somewhere; a job well done!

Rich







# LSCC Member in the Spotlight:

## Wayne Harju, LSCC #2115

### by Tony Barreca, LSCC #2151

**Tony.** *When did you first become interested in coin collecting and numismatics? Was there a specific experience or set of experiences that triggered it? What series did you start collecting when you did?*

**Wayne.** I started collecting Mercury dimes by date from change when I was in grade school. I put them in a coffee can. It was an interesting hobby which did not cost anything. I kept looking for better examples. Luckily, the 1916-D dime I got in change was in fine condition. Otherwise, I might have upgraded it.

Eventually, I discovered an old coin catalog in the school library and learned about mint marks. I was elated that my 1916 dime was worth \$5. I managed to complete the Mercury dime set from change except for 1921, 1921-D, and 1926-S. I purchased those dates from the Gimbels coin counter when I was in high school in order to complete my collection.

**Tony.** *How did you initially become interested in Liberty Seated (LS) coins? Which LS denominations do you focus on currently? Previously?*

**Wayne.** After completing college and a tour in the Air Force, I got a job working as an engineer for GE. While I was a bachelor, I completed my collection of Lincoln pennies that I had put together from circulation. Then I started collecting Indian head pennies. I completed that except for the 1856 flying eagle penny.

After getting married and having children, I no longer had money for coin collecting. When my children were grown, I completed my Buffalo nickel collection and my Liberty Standing quarter collection, minus rarities, of course, which I had put together from circulation. Then I looked in my coin catalog to find a new series of coins to collect. I decided on Liberty Seated dimes because they had a lot of varieties and many reasonably priced dates. I could even afford many dates in EF.

I have completed my Liberty Seated dime collection to the extent of my present greatly reduced financial means, now that I am retired. I enjoy looking at and examining the Liberty Seated dimes I have. I am working on a representative collection of ancient Roman coins now. Then I plan to go back and collect another U.S. coin series. I am considering collecting Liberty Seated half dollars. Articles in the *Gobrecht Journal* have gotten me interested in them.

**Tony.** *Within the series of LS coins you focus on, do you consider yourself a variety collector? If so, what is your approach to variety collecting?*

**Wayne.** I am not a variety collector.

**Tony.** *How long have you been an LSCC member? In your opinion, what are the main advantages of belonging to the club?*

**Wayne.** I have been an LSCC member for eight years. I purchased my first two Liberty Seated dimes, an 1853 and an 1854 in EF, from Jack H. Beymer. His coin listing suggested membership in LSCC.

I belong to LSCC because I enjoy the *Gobrecht Journal*. I like to think that by being a member of the LSCC, I am showing my support and appreciation for the research efforts being made by and generously shared by the other LSCC members.

**Tony.** *Do you ever participate in Club activities? If so, which ones? Have you ever visited the Clubs message boards? Attended a meeting in person? Which activities could you see yourself participating in at a future time? Have you ever actively recommended that a collector friend join the LSCC? If not, why not?*

**Wayne.** I have just recently been made aware of the LSCC Message Boards. I will have to try them out.



Continued from page 9)

**Tony.** *If you could change one thing about the LSCC, what would it be?*

**Wayne.** I think it would be nice if the *Gobrecht Journal* had a column with questions from members with responses from the editorial staff and/or other members. An article once in a while about error coins would be interesting.

**Tony.** *In your collecting career, what was the greatest coup you ever pulled off when purchasing a coin? Your biggest mistake?*

**Wayne.** My biggest coup was getting an 1850-O dime in Extra Fine (EF) for about \$20 on eBay. The seller sent me a plaintive message that he had forgotten to put in a minimum price. I asked what the minimum would have been. I paid him that amount. Maybe that was my biggest mistake, but I would have felt bad taking advantage of him.

**Tony.** *Do you think of the hobby as being a form of investment as well? If so, how do you approach your use of coins as an investment vehicle?*

**Wayne.** I personally only collect coins. I do not invest in them. Investment grade coins cannot be touched and have to be kept in a bank vault.

**Tony.** *While we don't want to make anyone uncomfortable by getting too personal, it would be a real opportunity for your fel-*

*low club members to get to know you a bit if you'd also answer one or more of these optional questions.*

**Tony.** *What is/was your work/career?*

**Wayne.** I am retired. I was an electrical engineer. I was a licensed professional engineer in the seven northeastern states that my firm worked in. Most of my design work was in water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities.

**Tony.** *What other hobbies/interests do you have besides numismatics?*

**Wayne.** I collect U.S. stamps. I also like to write. I am working on a science fiction story at present that I hope to get published. It is about the future nature of humanity. Isaac Asimov is my favorite science fiction writer. I have all his SF books and have enjoyed reading them all. I even have his two-volume autobiography.

**Tony.** *What is your greatest or most memorable personal achievement?*

**Wayne.** I published a volume of poetry entitled *Weltansicht* (world view).

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# Rustling Through the Newspapers of 1871-1874

## by Jim Laughlin, LSCC #876

Below are a small accumulation of newspaper articles that caught my eye as having some bearing on the "life and times" of Liberty Seated coins in the old West.

Sacramento Daily Union, April 19, 1871

[Laying the cornerstone of Grace Church, Sacramento, California.](#)

[The cornerstone of the new Grace Church building was laid yesterday morning at 11 o'clock with due ceremony in the presence of several hundred people... Bishop Kip commenced the ceremonies by reading the impressive consecrating ceremonies of the church, the assisting clergymen and laity rendering the responses with spirit...](#)

[The articles to be deposited in the box of the cornerstone were then announced by the Bishop, as follows: Bible and prayer book; City Directory, history of Grace Church \(Protestant Episcopal...coins-1, 2 and 5 cent nickels; 3 cent silver 1852; 25 cents, 1870; 50 cents, 1871; \\$1 silver, Carson City Mint, 1870; 10 cents 1870; 10 cents, 1824; Spanish Coin of 1847...](#)

Here we have a period article clearly indicating an 1870 CC dollar was placed in a cornerstone in Sacramento, about 130 miles West of Carson in 1871. It also raises the suspicion that the 1870 Quarter was also a Carson City Coin and the 1870 Dime was likely a San Francisco Mint product. As silver coins apparently did not circulate in Philadelphia and the East in 1870, anyone obtaining an 1870 Philadelphia Mint quarter or dime would have had to obtain these by paying a premium in green backs, and then they would have had to find their way out to California in 1871. Possible, but probably unlikely. I find it interesting that the poor half dime is forgotten (none struck in San Francisco in 1870, but an 1869 should have been around; the 1871-S I believe had been struck in March, but not positive). This church was located on Eighth Street, between I and J and of all things the parish went bankrupt in 1877 and the bank foreclosed. The church was purchased from the bank and re-organized as St Paul's. However, sometime in the late 1880s, it appears the

building was severely damaged by a storm and condemned; the property being sold. It is unknown whether the cornerstone and its contents were recovered and transferred to a new building or not. St Paul's did hold a memorial window for the late Leland Stanford, Jr (died 1884). son of Governor and Mrs. Stanford (and who Leland Stanford, Jr University in Palo Alto is named) donated by the Stanford's, which no doubt was re-located elsewhere. With Google Street View, one can remotely walk this block via the internet and see nary a church steeple. But it was right there, somewhere.

The following newspaper article was published in the capitol city of Sacramento, California, in 1871. It most likely was written by an author new to the West Coast, as he noted several peculiarities with regards to currency and coinage used in California at that time.

Sacramento Daily Union, May 13, 1871

[The San Francisco Market Review](#)

[There has scarcely ever been a time in history of San Francisco when money was more abundant than it is at present. This is not all; latest overland mail dates bring information that the New York market is glutted with funds, and rates have tumbled to 4 per cent on Government, and 5 to 6 per cent on miscellaneous securities, with almost certain prospect of further reductions. Advice from other Atlantic money centers are to the same effect, while the latest reports from London say: "It seems, indeed, that we have entered upon a period of very low rates of interest, the duration of which may be considerable". The Bank of England now holds over \\$111,000,000 in coin and bullion. Large sums are being constantly received from France, and heavy amounts of idle English capital are seeking investment in American securities. With this array of facts to contemplate, it does seem strange that California capitalists hold out with such persistent tenacity for 10, 12, and 15 per cent, when they know that the days of their iso-](#)

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(Continued from page 11)

lation have passed, never to return, and that they have been brought into direct and immediate competition with Europe and the rest of the Union.

Californians are queer folk to please in the matter of currency. So far they have not taken kindly to the new gold notes recently put into circulation, and prefer to continue their dealings to solid gold and silver. The attempt to foist one, two and three cent pieces on this community has been, and will prove, a complete failure. Nobody takes them; nothing can be bought with them. The five cent pieces are scarce and rapidly disappearing...A certain Chicago merchant was here last week, and being on the point of returning, drew down his balance at the Bank of California. He expressed great annoyance at being "obliged to lug around \$410 in gold".

The completion of the Pacific Railroad in 1869 slowly disrupted the existing California business and financial markets, which had developed in relative isolation along the Pacific Coast since 1849. The article hints at how unrealistic West Coast bankers (capitalists) were in seeking such high interest rates, now that the completed railroad made New York and European concerns now players in the West Coast

markets. The local merchant community soon discovered that Midwest and other Eastern merchants were sending goods and people West to directly compete in the California and western markets. Supplies of goods completely over whelmed what the local population demanded and many local merchants suffered financial loss. The low mintages and spotty production for the dimes and quarters coins produced by the San Francisco Mint 1870-1872 might be tied to this local economic downturn.

The reference to "gold notes" were a new type of National Bank Note, created especially for the hard money West payable in gold coin. The standard National Bank Notes and Legal Tender Notes of that era were heavily discounted in the West, as the Government or issuing Banks since 1862-1863 would not exchange them for silver or gold. It took until 1879 to finally get a paper dollar, a silver dollar, and a gold dollar to all be equally interchangeable nationwide.

The reference to one, two and three cent pieces, as well as the five cent nickel show the author was familiar with their acceptance in the East. There they were the only coins in general circulation in the East amidst the Fractional Currency, Legal Tenders, Na-

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tional Bank Notes, and other paper money post-Civil War. As this was written in 1871, Californian still had the silver half dime and shunned the nickel substitute. I do recall coming across an article of that period in California which contemplated what one could buy with a single cent piece. The only thing they came up with was a match or a piece of string.

The following likely originated in an unnamed San Francisco newspaper, and was later re-published in New Orleans.

New Orleans Republican, August 4, 1872

One of the crew of the brig running down the coast was lately paid off, and with his fist full of bright half dollars he rolled into a shop on Pacific, near Davis Street, San Francisco. He there called for a pocketbook, and having got one to his liking, he put the remains of his cash into a pocket in his waistcoat, while the book was securely stowed in a pocket in his round jacket. The storekeeper, who had watched the movement with some interest, told his customer it was the fashion to put money in the pocketbook; but Jack answered that he was up to the tricks of the land lubbers, and buttoning his pockets, walked off. The next day he called at the store and asked for another pocketbook, saying, "The d—d blackfish had captured the book, but had missed the shiners". He had them in his waistcoat pocket. Jack, for once, had outwitted the land sharks.

A neat little story maybe to tell the grandkids when showing an 1872-S half dollar or one of an earlier date that would have qualified as a "shiner." Kids such as me, immediately picked up that there were "land sharks" even back in 1872!

The following newspaper article likely notes that a very small number of 1872-S silver dollars were given away as prizes during a shooting match held in the capitol city of Sacramento, California, in September of 1872.

Sacramento Daily Union, September 24, 1872

Sacramento Rifle Club---The Sacramento Rifle Club had their annual shooting match on the 22nd. There

was a large attendance, including several visitors from San Francisco. The German and Swiss Rifle Clubs of that city each contributed a prize---the former twenty-five silver dollars, coinage of 1872, and the latter a gold chain valued at about \$40...

The San Francisco Mint struck 9,000 silver dollars September of that year. While there is a possibility these could have been Philadelphia or Carson City dollars that made it out to San Francisco, the likelihood is these were San Francisco pieces. This is based on these coins were struck the very month the competition occurred, that the Club giving these silver dollars as "prizes" was based in San Francisco, and that the article specifically noted "coinage of 1872." Seems as if these were something special, not generally seen and worthy of being awarded as prizes.

The following is a report of the Southern District Agricultural Society Annual Fair held at Los Angeles, California in 1874.

Los Angeles Herald, October 31, 1874  
Old Time Sports.

First on the programme was a contest in feats of horsemanship .....The test selected was for the riders to pick up, while on the full run, two half dollars placed on the ground in front of the judges' stand---the silver pieces being about a foot apart. Each rider had from ten to a dozen trials, but the coveted coins were not captured. Lopez once got the silver in his hands but it didn't stay there. And Arguello moved both pieces from their positions. Pico showed himself a daring and expert horseman, but he couldn't secure the coin; one thing, however, he did get---a good fall that brought forth a general laugh. One of the contestants mounted a mule, not over three feet in height, and was sure of success, but the mule unfortunately proved stubborn, and on each trial shied away from the silver. An outsider took a run for the prize but had to content himself with a fall and headlong roll.....the horse-men <are> of acknowledged skill and daring, and it must be recorded in their favor that their horses had not been trained for the work and acted badly. One of the judges lamented to the Herald reporter that expert horsemanship was fast becoming a "lost art" remarking ten years ago even the little fellows could success-

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

fully accomplish such a feat of horsemanship as had been vainly attempted.

While this article states that two half dollars were on the ground a foot apart; an earlier article (June 4, 1874) announced the upcoming event was to have three half dollars a yard apart; the riders given 75 yards start. Seems unlikely that the reporter on the spot would have got the number of half dollars messed up, so they must have modified the event. Regardless, picking up half dollars from the back of a moving horse is not quite the same skill set of locating one's slippers in the morning and getting them on one's feet.

I have been unable to re-locate another "rodeo" story I came across where a half dollar was

placed between the rider's boot and the bottom of the stirrup, and the trick was that after the bucking event, the half dollar had to still be there. Those Liberty Seated halves that have those nicks, gouges, scrapes and scratches may not get a CAC designation, but they may have had some stories to tell.

Sources:

California newspapers: California Digital Newspaper Collection, University of California, Riverside, <http://cdnr.ucr.edu>

Non-California newspapers: Library of Congress, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

Google Books History of Sacramento County, California, By William Ladd Willis, Page 293. (History of Grace Church) Available on-line <https://books.google.com>

## Register now for *"Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage"* at the ANA Summer Seminar, June 25-30!



This new course will feature interactive discussions on many topics, including the history and development of Liberty Seated coinage, evolution of the designs, and grading, including the nuances between series. The core of the class features a **deep dive** into each of the seven series: half dimes, dimes, twenty-cent pieces, quarters, halves, and both Liberty Seated and Trade dollars.

These deep dives entail in-hand inspection of many coins in all grades in all series, and will include in-depth discussions into collecting strategies, key dates, major varieties, attribution, counterfeits, and authentication. Students will have access to both reference materials and sit-down guidance from instructors throughout the course.

The ANA Summer Seminar Course Catalog is online. Seminar details and registration information are available at the ANA website, [www.money.org/summer-seminar](http://www.money.org/summer-seminar).

Course #28 is a four-day class and sessions go all day. Breaks, meals, and evenings allow for networking and camaraderie with all students and instructors, and provide plenty of time to talk coins with people of all backgrounds and levels of experience, from morning to night.

Class size is limited to 24 students, so if you are interested in attending this class, register soon, as it is filling up!

**Seminar #28:** Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage

**Instructors:** Gerry Fortin (LSCC President)

John Frost (LSCC Director of Education)

**Guest Lecturer:** Len Augsburger (LSCC Vice President)

### 28. Developing a Passion for Liberty Seated Coinage

This comprehensive look at Liberty Seated coinage presents the collective knowledge of many experts who have studied, collected, bought and sold these coins for decades. Each of the Liberty Seated series will be studied in detail, including half dimes, dimes, twenty-cents, quarters, half dollars,







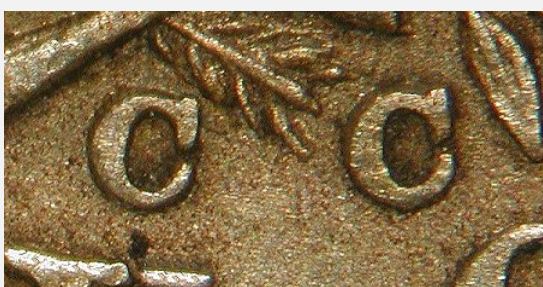
## Assistance Requested with Two Rare 1875-CC Twenty Cents Die Marriages

by John Frost, LSCC #2005

As mentioned in the March issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* (#125), Lane Brunner and I are looking for assistance in revising rarity estimates in our book/web book *Double Dimes – the United States Twenty-cent Piece*, for the two rare 1875-CC die marriages, which may be rarer than we originally thought. What we are asking of *E-Gobrecht* readers is to check your 1875-CC twenty-cent pieces to see if they have either of the two rare reverses. This should be a very easy task, as the two rare varieties have distinctive CC mintmark positioning, and should only take a quick look to identify.

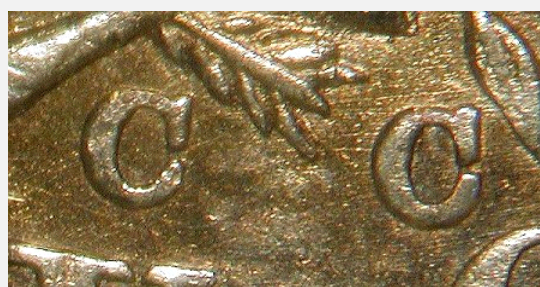
All four reverse mintmark positions are shown below to allow easy identification. First, the two common dies are shown, followed by the two rare dies which are the subject of this request.

**The two common dies, representing over 95% of known 1875-CC examples:**



**Reverse B – High Close CC** – Very common, found on about 70% of known examples

Note first C is to the **left** of the second arrow barb, second C is midway between arrow tail and leaf



**Reverse C – Wide CC** – Common, found on about 25% of known examples

First C is high and further **left** of the second arrow barb than Reverse B, second C is closer to leaf

**Now, the two rare ones:**



**Reverse A – Low Close CC #1** – Rare, first C *below* second arrow barb, both Cs tilted to the right



**Reverse D – Low Close CC #2** – Very Rare, first C *below* second arrow barb, first C tilted to the right, second C tilted to the left

**The help we are requesting:**

If you have an 1875-CC twenty-cent piece with either Reverse A (Low Close CC #1), or Reverse D (Low Close CC #2), can you please let us know via email at [info@doubledimes.com](mailto:info@doubledimes.com). Please let us know which variety you have, and the grade(s) of any examples. This will help us tremendously with our rarity estimates. No need to contact us about either Reverses B or C (common ones). We will update our reference at [www.doubledimes.com](http://www.doubledimes.com) accordingly.

Thank you in advance for your help!

John Frost and Lane Brunner



## Free Advertisements

**Holt Rarities** is Buying and Selling Liberty Seated, Federal, and Colonial Issue coins of all denominations. Check out our website at [www.holtrararities.com](http://www.holtrararities.com) or call (931) 581-1890. Brad Holt has collected coins for over thirty years and is a member of the ANA and LSCC.

**Wanted to Buy.** Collector of Liberty Seated Dollars wants engraved and/or counter-stamped (love tokens) or rotated reverses. All mints, any condition, holed OK. Carl Feldman: [carlscoins@gmail.com](mailto:carlscoins@gmail.com) or (973) 479-9956.

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[www.dickosburn.com](http://www.dickosburn.com) We buy, sell, and trade early U.S. silver coinage with an emphasis on Liberty Seated and Bust. Also accepting consignments and want lists. Call Brian at 603-767-7745 or contact Dick and Brian at [bpcushing@gmail.com](mailto:bpcushing@gmail.com)

**Larry Briggs Rare Coins.** New updated website with many photos—check us out at: [www.larrybriggsrarecoins.com](http://www.larrybriggsrarecoins.com)

**Liberty Seated and Bust Coinage for Sale.** Rich Uhrich Rare U. S. Coins Inc. specializes in Bust and Seated silver coins, especially scarce and rare dates and varieties. His website [www.richuhrichcoins.com](http://www.richuhrichcoins.com) lists his complete inventory. He is an authorized PCGS and NGC dealer and a member of ANA, LSCC, EAC, and JRCS. Contact him at [richuhrichcoins@comcast.net](mailto:richuhrichcoins@comcast.net), 717-579-8238.

**Dr. Eugene Bruder** is constantly updating his website, [www.typecoins.com](http://www.typecoins.com), which features a nice selection of bust and seated material for sale. You can reach him at 402-475-0350 or email at: [gene@typecoins.com](mailto:gene@typecoins.com).

**Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted.** I am looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at [jason@seated.org](mailto:jason@seated.org)

**Brian Greer,** well known dealer, collector, and numismatist, has an extensive listing of many new dates and

varieties listed on his website. Check them out at: <http://www.briangreerrarecoins.com/>.

**W. David Perkins.** Large Selection of Gobrecht and Liberty Seated Dollars in Inventory W. David Perkins, LSCC #790, has 10 Gobrecht and over 60 Liberty Seated Silver Dollars in inventory including many better dates. Please contact Dave at [wdperki@attglobal.net](mailto:wdperki@attglobal.net) or Phone 303-902-5366.

**David Kahn Rare Coins.** Over 40 years numismatic experience. Authorized PCGS and CAC dealer. My website is easy to use, and you will find many choice bust and seated coins there, all with excellent photos. High quality, original, eye appealing coins are my focus. [www.davidkahnrarecoins.com](http://www.davidkahnrarecoins.com)

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**Contemporary Counterfeits (and Genuine Seated & Bust too!).** Color images on my website [www.DaveWCoins.com](http://www.DaveWCoins.com). Also - get 1st shot at my new purchases by signing up for my "Making The Grade" e-newsletter. Just ask: [DaveWnuck@gmail.com](mailto:DaveWnuck@gmail.com)

**David Finkelstein:** [www.djf-coins.com](http://www.djf-coins.com) - raw and slabbed collector coins. Many coins have CAC stickers. Every coin is pictured. In addition to being an authorized PCGS, NGC and CAC dealer, I am a member of the PNG, ANA, EAC, LSCC, JRCS, and other regional/national organizations. Visit my website at [www.djf-coins.com](http://www.djf-coins.com). Contact me at [sales@djf-coins.com](mailto:sales@djf-coins.com).

**Double Dimes – the United States Twenty-cent Piece,** a new book by Lane Brunner and John Frost, available both as a web book at no cost, and a Print Edition. Spiral bound, 179 pages, nearly 400 photographs. The Print Edition is available from the authors at [www.doubledimes.com](http://www.doubledimes.com).

**Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted.** I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at [davethomas333@hotmail.com](mailto:davethomas333@hotmail.com) or 1-949-929-2830.



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Gerry Fortin  
[wuximems@hotmail.com](mailto:wuximems@hotmail.com)

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Leonard Augsburger  
[leonard\\_augsburger@hotmail.com](mailto:leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com)

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Dale Miller  
[dalecta@gmail.com](mailto:dalecta@gmail.com)

#### Publications Editor

Bill Bugert  
[wb8cpy@earthlink.net](mailto:wb8cpy@earthlink.net)  
P.O. Box 242  
Fairfield, PA 17320  
(717) 337-0229

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### National Positions

#### **Carl Feldman**

[carlscoins@gmail.com](mailto:carlscoins@gmail.com)  
Membership Chairman

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[john.frost@doubledimes.com](mailto:john.frost@doubledimes.com)  
Education Director

#### **Dennis Fortier**

[ricajun@msn.com](mailto:ricajun@msn.com)  
Team Leader,  
Regional Directors

#### **Jason Feldman**

[jasonfeldman@gmail.com](mailto:jasonfeldman@gmail.com)  
Director,  
LSCC Southern Region

#### **Steve Petty**

[stephenpetty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stephenpetty@sbcglobal.net)  
Director,  
LSCC Central Region

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[bpcushing@gmail.com](mailto:bpcushing@gmail.com)  
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## **LSCC Mission**

**To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.**

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**LSCC Membership Information.** Dues are bargain priced at \$25 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer.

**Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC Publications Editor.**

**Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the LSCC Publications Editor.**

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### ***Wanted: Material for this newsletter!***

*Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.*

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